

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Works	(2) MEETING DATE 1/13/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Mary Whittlesey, Solid Waste Coordinator (805) 781-5259	
(4) SUBJECT Request approval of a letter of support for grants under the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS). All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board authorize a letter of support for local school districts applying for grants under the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS).			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW <i>Nikki J. Schmidt</i>			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

Reference: 15JAN13-C-6

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works  
Mary Whittlesey, Solid Waste Coordinator

VIA: John Diodati, Department Administrator

DATE: 1/13/2015

SUBJECT: Request approval of a letter of support for grants under the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS). All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that your Board authorize a letter of support for local school districts applying for grants under the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS).

## **DISCUSSION**

The Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) is funded by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in response to the Governor's declaration of a Drought State of Emergency on January 17, 2014. The SWRCB has "re-purposed" remaining funds from Propositions 13, the *Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act of 2000* and Proposition 40, the *California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002* in order to provide funding for DROPS. The program is intended to provide grants to K-12 schools for projects that include the following eligibility requirements:

- A focus on storm water pollution reduction, retention, and use or recharge;
- Implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) strategies and practices that seek to maintain predevelopment hydrology
- Reduction and/or prevention of storm water contamination;
- Increasing understanding of the project's environmental benefits and the sustainability of California's water resources; and,
- Being located on existing school or County Office of Education (COE) lands, or publicly owned land immediately adjacent to school or COE property.

All projects must also include an education and outreach program. Providing a letter of support creates no County obligation; it promotes local grant efforts that are consistent with the County's Stormwater Management Plan and other existing water resource programs. Specific projects will vary based on each school's existing design and site-specific opportunities, and may include the following:

- BioRetention Basins
- Rain Gardens
- Dry Wells
- Rain Barrels/Cisterns
- Tree/Planter box filters
- Permeable Pavers

If the grant application is successful, project implementation will include student involvement to further promote storm water management goals. All DROPS projects must be maintained for at least twenty (20) years beyond project completion.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The DROPS program is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance.

The DROPS application is being coordinated by two local non-profits -- One Cool Earth and Central Coast Salmon Enhancement. Their goal is to help Paso Robles Joint Unified School District, Lucia Mar Unified School District and San Luis Coastal Unified School District ('Districts') seek grant funds for projects at specific schools. Several individuals employed by local consulting firms and other public agencies are also volunteering time in support of the application efforts.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

No direct costs are created by providing a letter of support for the DROPS program. If the grant application is successful, coordinating existing County storm water education and outreach efforts with the DROPS education and outreach program can enhance the County's promotion of storm water management, water quality and overall water resource management efforts as required by the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. While no direct costs are created by providing a letter of support for the DROPS program, there may be some staff time or resources the County could provide during the grant implementation. Required matching funds are the responsibility of the School Districts.

### **RESULTS**

Support of the DROPS program helps to engage citizens in participatory long-term community planning and development. Collaboration on grant and educational programs between local governmental agencies and school districts promotes healthy, well governed communities, well educated students and engaged citizens.

File: CF 900.80.01 Water Quality Control Board - Storm Water Permit

Reference: 15JAN13-C-6

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### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Letter of Support